

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the Abstract has been rewritten to a single paragraph and reference numerals have been deleted therefrom and, accordingly, the objection to the Abstract in the first paragraph at page 2 of the Action is submitted to be overcome. Withdrawal of the objection, accordingly, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 19 are rejected.

On the other hand, claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 12-18 and 20 are objected to--while being indicated to be allowable if suitably rewritten to independent form.

In the foregoing, the objected to dependent claims have been so amended to independent form and claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 19 are canceled.

Accordingly, it is submitted that all of the newly rewritten independent claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, 13, and 20 are allowable and thus that the claims which dependent therefrom, as well, are allowable.

There being no other objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date:

Aug. 26, 2004

By:

H. J. Staas

Registration No. 22,010

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501